

Ref. Code 3063

1 February 2013

Dear Mr. Wu,

I write in reference to your letter dated 17 December inviting the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to contribute to the follow-up of the Eleventh Session and the preparation of the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), to take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 20 to 31 May 2013.

Having taken into account the importance of the upcoming Twelfth Session as the Permanent Forum's review year, please find enclosed the Summary of Actions by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women regarding indigenous peoples' issues.

I thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and look forward to our future collaborations.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Bachelet
Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Director

Mr. Wu Hongbu
Under-Secretary-General and Secretary General
International Conference on Small Island Developing States
New York

Cc: Ms. Saraswathi Menon, Director, Policy Division, UN Women
Ms. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, Director, Programme Support, UN Women
Ms. Melissa Powers, Programme Specialist, Policy Division, UN Women

**Summary of Actions Undertaken or Planned by UN Women
regarding Indigenous Peoples' Issues**

Follow up to the Eleventh Session and Preparation for the Twelfth Session
of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

January 2013

*Inputs submitted by UN Women to Office of the Under-Secretary General
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)*

Executive Summary

UN Women has made significant strides in the promotion and inclusion of indigenous issues throughout its policy, programming and coordination work. Efforts at both the global, and regional and country levels, demonstrate a strong commitment to promote the rights of indigenous women and girls. This work spans research and advocacy, capacity building and inclusive participation – all elements that surface throughout the Eleventh Session recommendations targeting UN agencies in general and UN Women, specifically.

In the area of research and advocacy (Recommendation para 25), UN Women has responded with substantial work focusing on indigenous women's rights in the context of human rights – specifically access to land and resources – ending violence against women and girls, and political participation.

UN Women has promoted the participation of indigenous women and youth in at least eight (8) international forums of exchange or ongoing dialogues (Recommendation paras 23, 40). This has provided a platform for indigenous women and youth's voices to be heard on issues of sustainable development, peace processes, regional consultations, the development of the UN's post-2015 agenda, and in preparation of the Commission of Status of Women which addresses the issue of violence against women and girls in 2013. UN Women has also made efforts to ensure indigenous women are included in its core civil society advisory groups – both at the global and regional levels – and featured prominently in panels honoring International Women's Day.

Capacity building is at the core of promoting meaningful participation of indigenous women. Capacity building of women and youth is just as critical as that of authorities and officials that oversee the exercise of their rights. UN Women has focused on capacity building of indigenous women in the areas of political participation- especially electoral issues (Latin American region), negotiation and peace processes (Myanmar), local governance structures (Burundi), and constitutional reform and implementation processes (Bolivia).

UN Women leverages its positioning at a global level, along with its regional and country-level presence, to offer this multidimensional support to indigenous women and girls. It enlists innovative mechanisms of funding, such as its Fund for Gender Equality, to get resources directly to civil society actors that are making a difference in indigenous women and girls' lives. With nine (9) different grants across 15 countries since its inception in 2009, the Fund has invested approximately \$4.7 million on civil-society based initiatives linked to indigenous issues. UN Women's regional programmes, across Asia and Latin America especially, have targeted indigenous issues through research, advocacy and bolstering access to participate in key decision-making arenas.

Global-Level Initiatives of UN Women on Indigenous Issues

Contributing to the research and analysis available on the rights of indigenous women is a means of raising awareness and providing the foundation by which collective action may be taken to improve the status of indigenous rights and participation.

Human Rights

UN Women and OHCHR have developed a Handbook on Effective Strategies to Realize Women's Rights to Land and other Productive Resources as a tool to guide and support the adoption and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to ensure women's access, use and control over land and other productive resources. The Handbook will set out recommendations, together with explanatory commentaries, good practices and case studies from countries.¹ It will address indigenous women in a number of areas, and set out recommendations to advance the rights of Indigenous women to land and other productive resources.

These recommendations propose that laws, policies and programmes should:

- Recognize the rights of ownership and possession of Indigenous peoples over the lands which they traditionally occupy.
- Uphold the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
- Ensure that Indigenous women and men have equal, secure and sustainable rights to land and other productive resources, regardless of marital or other status.
- Recognize the cultural and spiritual significance of the land from the point of view of Indigenous Peoples.
- Promote effective participation of women in decisions regarding their tenure systems through their local or traditional institutions, including in the case of collective tenure systems.
- Implement, where necessary, temporary special measures to increase the capacity of women to participate fully in decision-making and governance of their tenure systems.
- Ensure an integrated approach in advancing the rights of Indigenous women to land and other productive resources, taking into consideration the unique rights of Indigenous women. These unique rights include the traditional knowledge they hold, for example, in relation to medicines.

Ending Violence Against Women

Another research source, on violence against women and girls, is under development in coordination with UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children. The Report on Violence against Indigenous Girls, Adolescents and Youth intends to contribute to the state of knowledge of the nature, prevalence, incidence and consequences of violence affecting indigenous girls, adolescents and youth within the contexts of the African, Asian and Latin American regions, with a focus on Kenya, the Philippines and Guatemala. Preliminary results of the working paper have already served as a substantive technical contribution to the January 2012 Expert Group Meeting on "Combating violence against indigenous women and girls: article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" and the United Nations Permanent Forum

¹ The Handbook is expected to be issued in spring 2013. It is the result of an expert group meeting held in Geneva in June 2012. Further information on the expert group meeting, including the papers submitted, is available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/events/54/expert-group-meeting-good-practices-in-realizing-womens-rights-to-productive-resources-with-a-focus-on-land/>.

Session in May 2012. The full report is expected to be formally launched during the Twelfth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2013.

Political Participation

In the area of political participation, further research will highlight indigenous women's leadership and role in politics. In furthering UN Women's Strategic Plan Development Results Goal 1: Women's increased leadership and participation in the decisions that affect their lives, UN Women's Political Participation team will continue supporting the engagement of excluded women in political participation particularly young and indigenous women. During 2013 a research programme on indigenous women's leadership and access to politics will be undertaken, in collaboration with the IIWF-Indigenous Women University; in order to generate evidence on the impact of indigenous women's access to decision making spaces, identify best practices and lessons learned at global level.

Representation and active participation of indigenous women and youth is central to participatory processes both within UN Women and across the UN system and with global partners.

Civil Society Advisory Groups

Indigenous women are included as members of the Global Civil Society Advisory Group and the Latin American Regional Civil Society Advisory Group and the inclusion of indigenous women is stipulated in the guidelines for the composition of national and other regional Civil Society Advisory groups.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 57) will focus on "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" (4-15 March 2013). UN Women has supported the writing of the key Secretary General reports on the issue and has systematically included issues of indigenous women and girls, especially among the conclusions and recommendations.²

UN Women is supporting the participation of indigenous women's groups and indigenous women at CSW 57 via the Yvonne Hebert Award programme as well as in the preparatory consultation and stakeholder meetings leading up to the CSW 57. In the recently concluded Stakeholders' Forum consultation with multi-stakeholders on the CSW 57, indigenous women's groups participated strongly, including as panelists and participants. They were able to raise critical issues regarding violence against indigenous women and girls and discuss these with policy makers present at the conference.

Post-2015 Agenda

With regard to the post-2015 development agenda, UN Women promotes the integration of indigenous issues into all discussions as well as the full participation of indigenous women in all consultations at the national, regional and international levels. UN Women is supporting the participation of indigenous women's groups and indigenous women in the Post 2015 Development Agenda stakeholder consultations at global, regional and national level.

International Women's Day

² See the Report of the Secretary General on "Multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence" (http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/3) pp.4, 14, 15, 20 and the SG Report on "Prevention of violence against women and girls" (http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/4) p 19.

The United Nations Observance of International Women's Day was held on 7 March 2012, as part of the programme of the 56th Session of CSW. The theme for the Day was "Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty". The programme consisted of two parts. The first segment featured short addresses by the Secretary-General, Ms. Marjon V. Kamara (Liberia), Chair of the 56th Session of CSW, Mr. Mutlaq Al-Qahtani, the Chef de Cabinet of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. The second segment consisted of an interactive panel discussion devoted to examining effective approaches for advancing gender equality in the rural world as a means to end deprivation. Ms. Mirian Masaquiza, indigenous women from the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues participated as one of the panelists. It was an opportunity to bring visibility to the situation of indigenous women and girls around the world on the urgent need for enhancing delivering on international commitments to empower indigenous women and advance gender equality.

The theme for the 2013 United Nations Observance of International Women's Day will be "A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women." The observance will be organized under the umbrella of the Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to end Violence against Women. It will be devoted to promoting on-going efforts to end violence against women focusing on specific aspects and challenges and effective approaches to address multiple discriminations and circumstances that increase the vulnerability of the girl child, older women, women living with HIV/AIDS, migrant and domestic women workers and indigenous women.

Regional- and Country-Level Initiatives of UN Women on Indigenous Issues

Fund for Gender Equality

Indigenous women and their communities have seen direct results from the support of UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) - the only global fund that is exclusively dedicated to women's economic and political empowerment. A partnership between UN Women, and regional, national and local women's organizations and governments, FGE promotes an innovative approach to advancing women's empowerment as an essential part of realizing rights, accelerating poverty alleviation and advancing sustainable development. The Fund is based on a model in which women implement their own programmes in their own countries based on their priorities with direct multi-year grants and technical support.

FGE as a funding mechanism has allowed UN Women to support nine (9) innovative civil society-driven programmes since 2009 in 15 different countries that specifically address issues of gender equality and indigenous women, with a total investment of approximately USD 4.7 million. (See Annex I for complete list of grants, locations and descriptions).

ASIA

Regional programming for Asia includes the UN Women Regional Programme on Improving Women's Human Rights in Southeast Asia- CEDAW SEAP Phase II (2011 – 2015), which is supporting capacity building of indigenous women's organizations in monitoring and reporting on gender equality commitments (CEDAW, other human rights treaties, UPR) and advocacy with regional human rights mechanisms, parliamentarians and justice sector. UN Women will also carry out research in seven countries of the SEA region on women's access to justice in plural legal systems that would also include indigenous communities, and support policy dialogues of indigenous women with governments on the issues pertaining to access to justice.

Regionally, UN Women worked with local partners to organize the Regional Women's Consultation on Development, Access to Justice and the Human Rights of Indigenous Women at the end of 2012. Participants included 28 from 12 indigenous groups in 9 countries of Southeast Asia who attended the Regional Consultation that discussed the following issues: 1) Militarization of areas where there is community opposition to mining, 2) Lack of action on human rights violations committed against IP Human Rights Defenders / impunity, 3) Unfulfilled commitments on resettlement obligations, 4) Lack of free prior and informed consent on projects entering indigenous communities, 5) Lack of information on mechanisms to redress issues arising from development projects, 6) In most countries, non-recognition of indigenous peoples rights to their land, territories and resources, 7) Lack of properly designed women-friendly and culturally-appropriate resettlement programs with substantive input from affected indigenous women's participation and 8) Lack of spaces for indigenous women to articulate their issues related to development and corporate projects entering their communities. As a way forward the consultation proposed capacity-building, research and documentation, advocacy, networking as some strategies to address the issues related to development-induced violence against indigenous women.

UN Women also supported the submission of two (2) joint statements for CSW 57 by the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact Foundation and the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), and the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) on the theme of *'Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls'*.

At the country level, initiatives in the Philippines and Myanmar highlight the importance of capacity building and strategic participation in international consultative processes. In the Philippines, UN Women supported the building of capacities across state entities as well as civil society groups. The National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is being supported by UN Women to increase capacity of its officers and Gender and development (GAD) Focal Points in ancestral domains all over the country to implement NAP 1325 and respond to indigenous women's issues in conflict situations. Civil society was engaged fully through the organization of a roundtable discussion on Rio+20, Post-2015 and the Green Economy, and implications for advancing the gender equality agenda was conducted with the participation of more than fifty women representing rural and indigenous women's groups, community-based women's associations and other grassroots groups, and NGOs advocating women's empowerment and sustainable development. This resulted in the formulation of a joint statement of women's groups and CSOs that served as reference for continuing lobby and advocacy effort on Post-2015 issues.

UN Women facilitated the convening of a Mindanao Indigenous Women's conference to enhance indigenous women's awareness and understanding of the Bangsamoro Framework Agreement (between the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front) and its implications for the advocacy of their rights, especially in regard to their claims to ancestral domain in the conflict-affected areas in Mindanao and right to access to justice under plural legal systems.

In Myanmar, UN Women aims at advancing women's leadership and gender equality throughout the parallel peace processes between the government and ethnic minority groups. From 29 October to 3 November 2012, UN Women, in partnership with the non-profit organizations Swisspeace and Shalom Foundation, organized a peacebuilding and negotiation training course for women, held in Yangon in Myanmar. The course was aimed at building women's skills and confidence, empowering them to play a greater part in peace negotiations. For the first time, the training brought together 20 women from seven different ethnic groups, including the Bamar, Chin, Kachin, Karen, Kayah, Mon and Shan, to discuss women's role in peacebuilding in Myanmar and to hone their skills to engage in peace processes. While most of them are from civil society, some were from the government, including a member of parliament.

During the four-day training, participants learned from international experience and engaged in a role-playing exercise to simulate the experience of being a peace negotiator. At the end of the workshop, a

meeting between these women and representatives from the international community was organized to discuss common priorities and identify how the international community can best support women's engagement in the ongoing talks. The workshop will be followed by a 6-month process of mentoring and coaching for a group of the women leaders.

LATIN AMERICA

Regional initiatives in Latin America have brought UN Women's promotion of inclusive participation and capacity- building priorities directly to benefit indigenous women and youth.

UN Women provided critical support for the participation of indigenous women in a range of forums that allow their voice to be amplified on issues of concern. This includes support to participants to three consecutive Permanent Forums (2010, 2011 y 2012); support to the development and approval process of the resolution presented by the International Forum of Indigenous Women at the 56th Session of CSW; facilitating the participation of three (3) participants at the Third Global Sustainability Forum in Manaus, Brazil, in anticipation of the UN Conference Rio+20; and support to the Expert Group Meeting (February 2012) on violence against indigenous women in New York in advance of the 57th Session of CSW.

Youth was the focus of the Regional Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean entitled "Young Women, Leadership and Governance: Sharing Experiences Worldwide", cohosted with UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA in Panama City, 23-25 November 2012. The "Declaration of Young Women of Latin America and the Caribbean" which came out of the Forum, acknowledges the ethnic, cultural, sexual, rural and urban diversity, giving attention to the specificities and conditions of young women with disabilities, living with HIV/AIDS and STIs deprived of freedom and as migrants. Participants demanded the ratification of the Ibero American Convention of Rights of Youth, and the generation of spaces for civil society and youth to influence and decide national political agendas, emphasizing young indigenous women, Afrodescendants, diversity and women with disabilities.

UN Women and the Secretariat of External Relations of Mexico hosted a Regional Forum on Indigenous Women and the Inter-American Justice System on November 12 2012 as part of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). The main objective of the Forum was to bring greater visibility and attention to the issue of access to justice for indigenous women, as well as foster the exchange of regional experiences and good practices regarding violence against women.

Political participation and electoral processes are an area where UN Women has supported capacity building for indigenous women. It has leveraged the BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) capacity building methodology implemented to promote gender equality in Latin America and include indigenous perspectives in these processes.

In early 2012, UN Women joined forces with UNDP to support a BRIDGE workshop in Honduras – which including the training of the first woman indigenous BRIDGE-certified facilitator. The workshop brought gender and elections in as a major component for capacity-building of electoral officials geared toward national elections in 2012. In late 2012, UN Women and UNDP partnered to deepen the link to gender and elections in a joint initiative to 1) translate the newly-developed Gender and Elections Module of BRIDGE training to Spanish and 2) organize a Training of trainers two-week long workshop that brought 19 experts in gender from 10 countries, including an indigenous Aymara leader from Bolivia. The investment in training trainers in Spanish specifically on the topic of Gender and Elections will be a key platform for UN Women to continue building partners' capacities in government and civil society, and especially for indigenous women – for 2013 and beyond.

Specifically in the Andean region, UN Women has launched a regional programme with a special focus on indigenous women, human rights, violence and access to justice. The programme works at two levels: the first is the strengthening and empowerment of existing indigenous women's organizations; the second is working in strategic decision-making spaces to promote the intercultural and gender-sensitive legal measures that provide the framework for the participation and empowerment of indigenous women. Concrete results have been seen in Ecuador, where the development of training modules and capacity building of state prosecution officials have increased awareness on issues of intercultural, human rights and judicial plurality with a gender lens. Investigative reports have been undertaken in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia which have broadened understanding of the challenges indigenous women have to access justice – both 'ordinary' systems as well as indigenous justice systems.

At the country level, important research initiatives on indigenous women include the collaboration among UN Women, IFIW, PATH, Alianza de Mujeres Indígenas de Centroamérica y México, and Universidad Uraccan de Nicaragua through their support of a research group of indigenous women formed to investigate violence with a gender and intercultural approach through the development of a unique research methodology. Similarly UN Women has supported the development and implementation of three (3) Community Diagnostics on Violence against indigenous women in Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

UN Women has also developed publications in two different Central American countries addressing the issue of indigenous women and violence against women. In Guatemala, a methodological publication was developed for Mayan women ("Sanando la Trama Histórica de la victimización en las mujeres mayas") and another publication on the voice and experience of the women of Asociación Majawil Q'ij: regarding the individual and collective rights of women. In Panama, UN Women completed a normative document on domestic violence against indigenous women and girls ("Documento Normativo para la prevención de la violencia intrafamiliar contra la mujer y niña indígena en la Comarca Guna Yala").

In Guatemala, UN Women has provided technical support to and ensured the participation of indigenous women's groups in two fora. For Mayan women, UN Women supported the development of the National Conference of Mayan Women, which was held in December 2012. The meeting provided a space where Mayan women could define common priorities and articulate strong agendas for a range of decision-making for a, including the 57th Session of CSW. UN Women is also ensuring the direct participation of key indigenous women leaders at the 57th Session of CSW from the Latin American region. UN Women has also supported, in coordination with state officials and civil society groups, including indigenous women representatives, the development of the National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325.

In Mexico, a model programme developed by UN Women in collaboration with the Government of Mexico and indigenous women's networks has expanded indigenous women's exercise of sexual and reproductive rights and a life free of violence. The initiative and has been approved as a national permanent programme and will include indigenous women's leadership training developed by the National Autonomous University.

One of the main components of the programme is the Indigenous Women's Houses (CAMI) that as a result of its successful pilot phase was consolidated a public policy in 2012 through the approval of the Program for Gender Equality in Indigenous Communities. The CAMIs have not only been acknowledged as a best practice in the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples and the UN Women Executive Board this year, but through the outstanding participation of indigenous women with UNW support in the 52 session of the CEDAW Committee (July 2012), the conclusive document of this session also recognized the experience of the CAMIs in the light of the general concern regarding violence against women in

Mexico, and in particular violence against indigenous and rural women. The CAMIs have provided solutions to an important justice and health service access gap for women in indigenous communities. The national programme is expected to have a budget of almost \$6 million.

UN Women has supported the training of 79 indigenous women leaders as part of a new academic programme for indigenous women's leadership training developed by the National Autonomous University in collaboration with government and the Central American and Mexican Indigenous Women's Alliance. This experience is a successful governmental-UN Women cost-sharing initiative that proves how UN Women's contribution has strengthened a national intervention.

UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality

Programmes Working with Indigenous Women

CLOSED PROGRAMMES

Ecuador	Governability and Institutionalization of a Focus on Equity and Gender in the Cuenca District
Fundación Waaponi (Closed)	In order to promote gender equality standards within decision-making bodies, particularly within rural governing boards, this programme built upon existing social networks linked to rural communities to disseminate information and catalyze momentum for progress towards gender equality. In total, eighteen local government officials and 400 local women received training on gender analysis and effective strategies to strengthen women's positions on the local Parish Councils. In addition to the 16 women's agendas that were developed and adopted by Parish Councils.
	Funding: US \$489,657 2009 – 2011 Grantmaking Cycle

Serbia	Roma Decade: Equal Opportunities for Roma Women and Men
Women's Space BIBIJA Roma Women's Centre (Closed)	This initiative specifically focused on the intersections between CEDAW and the Serbian Roma Decade Framework, and addressed the specific needs of Roma women, who are subject to discrimination on the basis of both ethnicity and gender. Aiming to support systematic solutions for the improvement of the status of Roma women, the programme strengthened the leadership skills of over 275 Roma women and raised awareness of over 3,800 local stakeholders on the needs of local Roma women in seven municipalities. Moreover, seven municipalities adopted Local Actions Plans for Roma Women in 2011.
	Funding: US \$120,625 2009 – 2010 Grantmaking Cycle

Global level	Strengthening Governance Systems and Indigenous Women's Networks
International Indigenous Women's Forum (Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas) (Closed)	Through the strengthening of indigenous women's networks, this programme increased indigenous women's participation, visibility and leadership capacity at the local, regional and international level. Indigenous leaders participated in consultation processes for the United Nations General Assembly Millennium Development Goals Review +10 Summit. It trained 400 activists, many of whom participated at regional and international meetings on women and indigenous people, engaging relevant stakeholders in a process of dialogue, consultation and advocacy in order to infuse gender equality perspectives into the work of the indigenous people's movement and indigenous governance systems.
	Funding: US \$300,000 2009 – 2010 Grantmaking Cycle

CURRENT GRANTEES

Bolivia	Bolivian Women in the Process of Change: A Policy Framework for Gender Equality
Asociación Coordinadora de la Mujer	At a moment of societal transformation following the election of the Bolivia's first Indigenous president, diverse women's organizations coordinated a joint political platform to bolster the rights of Bolivian women, including Indigenous, rural, urban, Afro-descendent and self-employed women, domestic workers and miners in the midst of wide-spread legal reform. With a multicultural lens, an alliance of 19 women's organizations have worked with the National Assembly to press for updates to seven national laws and propose 20 gender-specific laws to anchor women's empowerment in the new legal framework. This precedent-setting alliance brought together over 100 partners at national, regional and local levels to promote the integration of a women's perspective in the ongoing political transformation. In 2011, the coalition successfully integrated a gender perspective into six laws.
	Funding: US\$ 2,474,134 2009 – 2010 Grantmaking Cycle
Burundi	Promotion of Gender Equality in the Indigenous Batwa Peoples of Burundi for the Participation of Indigenous Women in the Decision-making Bodies at the Local Level
UNIPROBA=Unissons-pour la Promotion des Batwa	In Burundi the Batwa peoples are extremely marginalized and under-represented at municipal and national levels of political decision making. Batwa women, in particular, are subjected to gender-based rights violations, including highly unequal rights in marriage, unpaid manual labour and domestic violence, and limited participation in public spheres. This programme seeks to increase the participation, political influence and accountability of indigenous Batwa women in decision making affecting their lives at local levels as well as in municipal and regional councils. Moreover, it will support and expand the local leadership of Batwa women to reinforce their capacity to appropriate their rights and to take active part in standing for election in local councils. The programme will reach out to 1,020 women directly, most of whom are young women, a group marginalized within the Batwa themselves, and who have the capacity to serve as role models for future generations.
	Funding: US \$200,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle

Colombia	Towards the Political Empowerment of Amazonian Women
Organizacion de Los Pueblos y Autoridades Indigenas	In Colombia, women are severely underrepresented in leadership positions in their indigenous organizations and communities. To remedy this situation, OPIAC proposes a programme that will promote political dialogue by organizing a regional meeting of indigenous women and create an autonomous space for indigenous women in the Indian National Commission on Human Rights. Moreover, it intends to raise awareness on the role of indigenous women in advancing a women's rights and gender equality agenda, by launching community radio programs and through the use of ICT, including blogs, web pages and other communications tools. The programme seeks to ultimately encourage the political empowerment of over 300 indigenous women in the departments of the

	Colombian Amazon, including Amazonas, Guainía, Guaviare, Putumayo, Vaupés and Vichada through leadership trainings and capacity building initiatives.
	Funding: US \$200,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle

Guatemala	Political Empowerment of Women in Izabal
Asociación de Mujeres JUNAJIL Asociación Programa de Gestión Ambiental Local	In the Department of Izabal in Guatemala, indigenous women have historically been confronted by low levels of formal education, extreme poverty and a lack of registration with local government (which often correlates with a lack of access to national ID cards and the rights and benefits attached to citizenship). These compound factors often result in their abysmally low levels of participation in political decision making. This programme will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education and proposes a creative approach to increasing indigenous women’s political participation by delivering training in schools on political inclusion, citizenship and civic education, and women’s leadership. In addition, women’s political participation will be enhanced by supporting local indigenous women to obtain state-required ID cards as a means to encourage them to vote during the 2013 elections and as an entry point to raising their awareness of their political and civil rights. Programme beneficiaries include 8,160 indigenous women from 4 ethnic groups, specifically from the low-income rural and urban areas of the Department of Izabal.
	Funding: US \$375,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle

Bangladesh	Women: Promote an Enabling Environment for Ethnic Hilly Women of Bangladesh to Access and Control Over Economic Resources
Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity (BNKS)	In Bangladesh, women belonging to ethnic minorities face dual vectors of marginalization on the basis of gender and ethnicity and often must manage the consequences of violence and exploitation, in part due to their lack of knowledge of their rights and entitlements. This programme seeks to support minority women’s economic empowerment by leveraging their traditional knowledge and craftsmanship skills. It will empower 3,000 women by facilitating their increased access to economic resources through agriculture and crafts-based skills development, seed grants and equipment, and the identification of market linkages for their products. Moreover, the programme will promote rights-based development by training 25 community women as paralegals to enable them to address gender inequalities and provide legal aid to 500 women survivors of violence and discrimination.
	Funding: US \$200,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle

Peru, Guatemala, Argentina, Brazil	Indigenous Women Defending Mother Earth: Economic Rights and Empowerment in Latin America
CHIRAPAQ , Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú	In Peru, Guatemala, Argentina and Brazil, where indigenous people represent over half of the population, indigenous women have faced long-standing challenges of marginalization, poverty, lack of education, growing militarisation of their territories, social exclusion and racism – each of which are compounded by gender-based inequality. This programme focuses on the economic empowerment of indigenous women and increasing their levels of involvement in decision-making processes that impact their lives. It employs a holistic and comprehensive set of strategies, including training in economic rights for indigenous women’s organizations as well as training for government institutions on the history and importance of indigenous women’s contributions to development objectives, through awareness-raising, advocacy and coalition building initiatives. Over 950 indigenous women from 20 organizations at local and national levels will directly benefit from this programme, while over 25,000 indigenous women throughout Latin America will be impacted indirectly.
	Funding: US \$535,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle

Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal	Indigenous Women’s Global Leadership School: Capacity Building and Political Empowerment in Asia
Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education)	In the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Nepal, indigenous women face discrimination, marginalization and exclusion from development processes on the basis of their ethnicity and gender. The programme, which builds on the outcomes of the Third Asian Indigenous Women’s Conference (2010), seeks to encourage indigenous women’s participation in development planning, while taking into account climate change and other indigenous priorities. It employs a combination of strategies, including training and capacity building, advocacy, and coalition building among indigenous women’s organizations to empower over 200 indigenous women in the four countries of implementation to advocate for their rights in national and international fora and to influence policy making and implementation processes to become more sensitive to and inclusive of indigenous priorities.
	Funding: US \$250,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle